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August 2004
ILLINOIS
DEPOSITORY

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

HOW TO PREVENT OPEN DUMPING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

WHAT ITEMS ARE MOST OFTEN OPEN OR ILLEGALLY DUMPED?

- Construction and demolition waste (such as roofing shingles, bricks, lumber, concrete, siding)
- Abandoned vehicles, parts, and tires
- Medical waste
- "White goods" – refrigerators, freezers, ovens
- House/yard waste
- Furniture
- Motor Oil
- Hazardous materials



Abandoned vehicles, tires, white goods, etc. can be found in an illegally operated landfill.

WHEN DOES ILLEGAL DUMPING LIKELY TAKE PLACE?

- Typically, after dark, particularly in poorly lit areas
- A study of open dumping cases in Detroit, MI showed that 72% of illegal dumping arrests occurred between 5 p.m. and 12 a.m. and that

57% of all arrests occurred on a Tuesday or Wednesday



Illegal dump sites can have a negative impact on community development.

WHERE DOES ILLEGAL DUMPING MOST OFTEN OCCUR?

- Abandoned industrial, commercial, or residential buildings
- Vacant lots on public/ and private property
- Lesser traveled alleyways and roads
- Rural roads
- Railroads

WHY DO PEOPLE ILLEGALLY DUMP THEIR WASTE?

- Shirk responsibility for paying disposal fees
- Avoid taking the time to manage waste properly
- Ignore the problems caused by open dumping
- Unaware of disposal regulations



*Barriers can prevent easy access to remote areas.
Photo courtesy of US EPA Region 5.*

WHY IS OPEN DUMPING AN ISSUE?

- Health risks:
 - ✓ Physical injury (protruding nails, shards of wood or glass)
 - ✓ Chemical injury (inhaling harmful vapors or dust)
 - ✓ Disease from rodents, mosquitoes, etc.
- Endangers wildlife habitat
- Reduces property values and makes the community unattractive to further development

WHAT ARE SOME SIMPLE WAYS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING?

- Erect signs warning dumpers of consequences if caught
- Undertake landscaping/beautification projects on vacant properties
- Install adequate lighting
- Place barriers (fences, concrete highway dividers, etc.) along roadsides in areas prone to dumping
- Educate individuals and communities as a whole concerning the problems associated with open dumping

- Indicate that the area is under 24 hour surveillance
- Raise fines for those caught illegally dumping and give a portion to the person who reported the incident
- Establish a neighborhood watch program, especially in areas with a heavy volume of illegal dumping

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED?

- Gather volunteers to participate in a “watchdog” program.
- Identify areas with high incidences of illegal dumping and set up a monitoring program.
- Prepare educational materials to make community residents aware of the problem.
- Create a local hotline where citizens can report illegal activities.
- Contact local businesses and agencies to solicit donations of cleanup equipment and supplies.

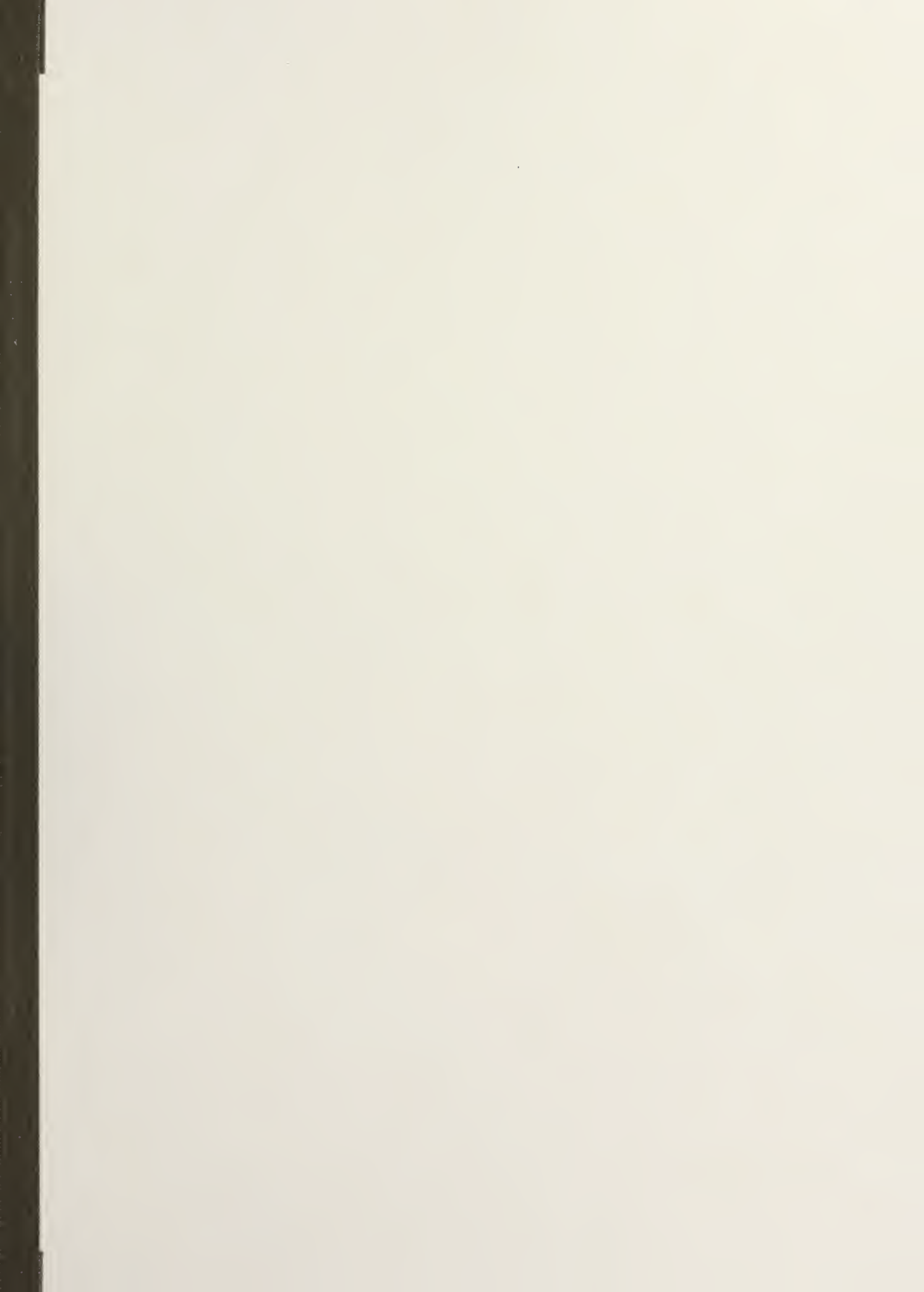


*Barriers can prevent easy access to remote areas.
Photo courtesy of US EPA Region 5.*

Printed by Authority of
the State of Illinois
August - 2004 34161 500

TO REPORT OPEN DUMPING, CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL ILLINOIS EPA OFFICE:

ROCKFORD – 4302 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 – (815) 987-7760 • DES PLAINES – 9511 W. Harrison St., Des Plaines, IL 60016 – (847) 294-4000
 ELGIN – 595 South State, Elgin, IL 60123 – (847) 608-3131 • PEORIA – 5415 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61614 – (309) 693-5463
 BUREAU OF LAND - PEORIA – 7620 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61614 – (309) 693-5462 • CHAMPAIGN – 2125 South First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 – (217) 278-5800
 SPRINGFIELD – 4500 S. Sixth Street Rd., Springfield, IL 62706 – (217) 786-6892 • COLLINSVILLE – 2009 Mall Street, Collinsville, IL 62234 – (618) 346-5120
 MARION – 2309 W. Main St., Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 – (618) 993-7200



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